

TIMES EXTRA

Hamburg, Iowa. December 13 1869.

THE WILKERSON TRAGEDY.

Last Thursday night Mr. Jesse Wilkerson was assaulted in Cummings's saloon in Hamburg and received injuries which caused his death on Sunday following.

Isaac Cummings, A. Dempster, Wm Murray and S. Beaston, were arrested on the charge of murder. The examination took place Sunday night before Justice Hood and the following are the facts in the case as shown by the evidence:

An arrangement was made between Murray, Cummings and Dempster to get Wilkerson intoxicated and then compel him to sign a contract to sell them a number of hogs which he had already sold to another party. They succeeded in getting him under the influence of liquor but could not induce him to sign the contract. Dempster then approached him and after failing repeatedly to induce him to take money, offered a bystander five dollars to place a sum of money in Jesse's pocket, evidently intending to make this an evidence that he had sold his hogs and so collect damages from him if he failed to deliver them. This plan failing, they drew Mr. Wilkerson into a quarrel, in the course of which, the bar keeper, Mr. Beaston, struck him in the face.—

Dempster then clinched him and they fell upon the floor. Dempster then arose raised Jesse to his feet and said "I don't want to hurt you." Cummings rushed around the bar saying "I do," and struck him in the face, knocking him down, and then kicked him in the face and side, bruising his head and side badly, and cutting his cheek to the bone. The Marshal then arrested Mr. Wilkerson and took him before the Mayor who fined him \$3.50. Mr. Wilkerson was taken home and lingered in a delirious state until Sunday morning when he died. The examination of Cummings took place Sunday evening. He plead not guilty but was held to answer the charge of Murder. Dempster and Beaston waived an examination and were held to answer to the same charge. Murray was acquitted, the evidence showing that he was not engaged in the assault although probably one of the conspirators in the swindle.

There was great excitement during the trial and many proposed taking the men from the officers and hanging them to the nearest tree, but fortunately, a better spirit prevailed and the law was permitted to take its course. Murray has been notified to leave town within twenty-four hours and will probably consult his own interest if he takes his paramour and travels.

A good man is dead and a nest of robbers broken up.